

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/708,666
Docket No.: 12423-US-PA-X-0P

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13-17 and 19-22 have been noted with great appreciation, and also that claims 3, 4, 9 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form and any intervening claims.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Douglas W Owens for granting a Telephonic Interview on January 12, 2006, regarding the above-identified application. During the ensuing Telephonic Interview, emphases were made to Examiner Douglas W Owens that element 14 in Figure 8 is a part of the selection gate electrode, rather than a source line. Also, Yaegashi teaches in col. 14, ln. 31 to 39 & Fig. 18 a plug and a wiring layer being formed as the source line and the bit line. Accordingly, element 14 can not be the source lines. Moreover, claim 1 of the instant case teaches "a plurality of source line contacts, through the third dielectric layer, connecting to the source/drain regions that are between each pair of the source lines and electrically connecting to at least one of each pair of the source lines...". In other words, the instant case requires the source line contacts being electrically connected to at least one of each pair of the source lines. It is obvious from Figure 18 of Yaegashi that element 14 can not connected to the source/drain regions. Therefore, even if element 14 could be construed as the source lines as argued by the Examiner, Yaegashi still fails to teach or disclose each element of the claimed invention. Examiner Douglas W Owens had indicated that he now had a better understanding of our arguments, although no agreement was reached during this

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interview. Examiner Douglas Owens further recommended a filing of a response to better evaluate the prior art reference.

Claims 1-17 and 19-22 are pending. At least for the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1-12 are in proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 102

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 and under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yaegashi et al. (US-6,835,987, hereinafter Yaegashi).

Applicants respectfully disagree and respectfully submit, and as emphasized in the Telephonic Interview with Examiner Douglas W Owens conducted on January 12, 2006, that Yaegashi cannot anticipate the proposed independent claim 1 because Yaegashi substantially fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the claimed invention as claimed in the proposed independent claim 1. More specifically, Yaegashi substantially fails to teach or disclose a memory device comprising at least *[a plurality of source line contacts, through the third dielectric layer, connecting to the source/drain regions that are between each pair of the source lines and electrically connecting to at least one of each pair of the source lines]* as required by the proposed independent claim 1. The advantage of the features recited above is that at least the source lines do not occupy any extra chip area and therefore the integration of the integrated circuit can be effectively increased.

In other words, the instant case requires the source line contacts to be electrically connected to at least one of each pair of the source lines. Instead, Yaegashi teaches in col.

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14, ln. 31 to 39 & Fig. 18 a plug and a wiring layer are formed as the source line and the bit line. Accordingly, element 14 of Yaegashi can not be the source lines, and it is obvious from Figure 18 of Yaegashi that element 14 can not connected to the source/drain regions. Therefore, even if element 14 could be construed as the source lines as argued by the Examiner, Yaegashi still fails to teach or disclose each element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yaegashi cannot possibly anticipate the proposed independent claim 1 in this regard.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12, which directly or indirectly depend from independent Claim 1, are also patentable over Yaegashi at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 are in proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of above rejections is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 103

The Office Action rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yaegashi.

Applicants respectfully disagree and would like to point out that because claim 7, which depend from the proposed independent claim 1 deemed allowable over Yaegashi for at least the reasons discussed above, is also patentable over Yaegashi for at least the same reasons as well. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

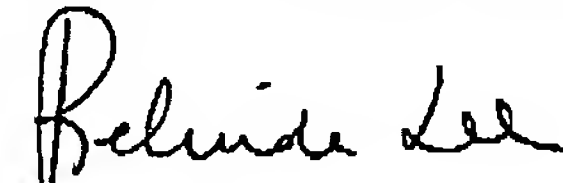
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-17 and 19-22 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

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Respectfully submitted,


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